[](http://arrl-ohio.org/news/) ***“September 13th***

***(and 20th)Edition”\*\*\****

( \*\*\*A Special “TWOFER” Presentation)

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Gilligan’s Island????

We all know the *Gilligan’s Island*castaways were stranded on a deserted island after their charter boat was lost during a typhoon. There’s a whole [theme song](https://outsider.com/news/entertainment/gilligans-island-bob-denver-convinced-producers-change-shows-intro/)about it. The seven characters were out on a three-hour tour. The skipper was brave and sure, but he couldn’t keep the tiny ship from getting tossed. The weather was rough, but the fearless crew couldn’t handle it. That tiny boat just couldn’t get it done.

The tiny ship’s name was the S.S. Minnow. So, the tiny charter boat that helped launch *Gilligan’s Island* was named for a tiny fish normally used for bait. But that’s not quite the whole story.

Gilligan’s Island Boat Named for Regulator

Sherwood Schwartz, who created *Gilligan’s Island*, [named the boat in honor of his least favorite bureaucrat](https://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/ct-newt-minow-fcc-ae-0117-20170118-column.html). Schwartz wrote in his book *Inside Gilligan’s Island* that he named the boat to mock Newton Minow.

So, who was Newton Minow? Back in the early 1960s, President John F Kennedy appointed Minow, a World War II vet and former Supreme Court clerk, to chair the Federal Communications Commission. Although he only served for two years, in one of his speeches, Minor referred to television as a “vast wasteland” for content. Schwartz didn’t like much of anything Minow accomplished. He certainly didn’t like the speech he gave to a group of broadcasters. But by the time *Gilligan’s Island* premiered in 1964, Newton already had served his time on the FCC.

Schwartz wrote: “The shocking aftermath of that designation of responsibility by Mr. Minow and the FCC gave ABC, CBS, and NBC absolute authority over everything that comes into your living room on network television.”

Minow has led an impactful life. President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016.

**CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD**

Wow! This past weekend was a whirlwind! Saturday September 11 was the 14th running of the OH State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest and I was with Team K8IV at Punderson State Park. Two comments: 1) What a beautiful day in NE Ohio – blue skies and a nice warm breeze; 2) Bands were open and a whole bunch of Q’s were made! It was a perfect day. Just to add to the fun, one of my Q’s on 20 meters was with Lee Sly – N5SLY of Sherman, Texas. In over 50 years as a Ham this is the first time I’ve ever made contact with another SLY on the air! He was nice enough to send me his QSL, and of course one of mine has already been sent back to him. When the OSPOTA results are released I’ll be sure to post them here for all of you to see how you did.

You’ve all probably heard by now that the 10th Annual Vette City Hamfest, along with the 2021 Great Lakes Division Convention has been *CANCELLED* due to COVID concerns. While I hate to see another one cancelled for 2021, I think it was the right thing to do for all involved. While the plans were being made, I met a great group of people from Kentucky who did just about everything they could to pull it off. While I’ve never been to the Vette City Hamfest in the past, it will certainly be on my “to do” list for the upcoming years. I know everyone is interested in hearing about the Division Newsletter Contest, but I’m in the dark as to the winners just like all the rest of you. I’m sure that there will be some sort of presentation coming out in the near future and as I hear any more details on it, I’ll be sure to let you know.

On Tuesday, August 31st, we had our first OH Section Technical Session on Zoom. This was presented by OH Section Technical Specialist N8EI – Jason McCormick who did an outstanding job for those in attendance. His topic was “Beyond the Baofeng: Thoughts on Equipment Choices for New Hams”. Our total participation was approximately 45 – most being new hams and/or “almost” hams! Now, in the category “Why Do Computers Hate Me?” – I recorded the presentation, but I only got an audio recording. Everything was set up properly, I’ve talked with the folks at ZOOM to see if there was anything they were able to do to find the video portion, but it’s all a “no-go”. That being said, the audio portion is still pretty good, I’ll be getting that posted where you can listen in, hopefully with a copy of Jason’s power point slides very soon. I think this was a very worthwhile presentation for those who participated, and we will be planning future presentations, and staggering the day of the week they are scheduled for, possibly including a Saturday or Sunday presentation. If you have topics you would like to see covered drop me a line and let me know.

Tom Sly – WB8LCD

ARRL OHIO Section Manager

330-554-4650

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 The 2021 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is Just Ahead

The weekend of October 2 - 3 is designated for holding the annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET), although local and Section-level exercises may take place throughout the fall.

The SET is ARRL's primary national emergency exercise and is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers, as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved in emergency and disaster response. A picture containing text, indoor, computer, electronics

Description automatically generatedIt encourages maximum participation by all radio amateurs, partner organizations, and national, state, and local officials who typically engage in emergency or disaster response.

In addition to ARES volunteers, those active in the National Traffic System (NTS™), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN®, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and a variety of other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are needed to fulfill important roles in this nationwide exercise.

The SET offers volunteers an opportunity to test equipment, modes, and skills under simulated emergency conditions and scenarios. Individuals can use the time to update a go-kit for use during deployments and to ensure their home station's operational capability in an emergency or disaster.

To get involved, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager.

Next SpaceX Commercial Crew to ISS Comprised of Radio Amateurs

Four radio amateurs will head to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a commercial flight, thanks to Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](http://www.ariss.org/)). They are Raja Chari, KI5LIU; Tom Marshburn, KE5HOC; Kayla Barron, KI5LAL, and Matthias Maurer, KI5KFH, a European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut. The targeted launch date is no sooner than October 31, from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The launch will mark the third SpaceX Crew

|  |
| --- |
| A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**The SpaceX Crew-3 astronauts (L-R) Matthias Maurer, KI5KFH; Thomas Marshburn, KE5HOC; Raja Chari, KI5LIU, and Kayla Barron, KI5LAL, during pre-flight training at SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California.** |

Dragon spacecraft and Falcon 9 rocket launch combination as part of NASA's [Commercial Crew Program](https://www.nasa.gov/exploration/commercial/crew/index.html), which provides transportation to and from the ISS. The crew is scheduled for a 6-month stay aboard the orbiting laboratory, living and working as part of what's expected to be a seven-member crew.

The launch will be the first spaceflight for Chari, Barron, and Maurer, and the third for Marshburn.

NASA's SpaceX Crew-3 will be the third crew rotation mission to the ISS with astronauts on a US rocket and spacecraft and the fourth flight with astronauts, including the [Demo-2 test flight](https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-astronauts-launch-from-america-in-historic-test-flight-of-spacex-crew-dragon) in 2020, the [Crew-1 mission](https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-spacex-crew-1-astronauts-headed-to-international-space-station) in 2020 - 2021, and the ongoing [Crew-2 flight](https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-spacex-crew-2-astronauts-headed-to-international-space-station) as part of the Expedition 65 crew.

Crew-3 astronauts plan to arrive at the station to overlap with NASA Astronauts Shane Kimbrough, KE5HOD, and Megan McArthur; Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Astronaut Akihiko Hoshide, KE5DNI, and ESA Astronaut Thomas Pesquet, KG5FYG, who flew to the station as part of the agency's SpaceX Crew-2 mission in April 2021.

Mission teams have a target launch date of no earlier than April 15, 2022, for the launch of the SpaceX Crew-4 mission. "NASA's Commercial Crew Program is working with industry through a public-private partnership to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation to and from the International Space Station, which will allow for additional research time and will increase the opportunity for discovery aboard humanity's testbed for exploration," NASA said. "The space station remains the springboard to space exploration, including future missions to the moon and Mars."

[For launch coverage and more information](http://www.nasa.gov/commercialcrew) about the mission, visit the NASA website.

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The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Sunspot numbers started strong at 124 on this reporting week, September 9 - 15, but ended at 0. Average daily sunspot numbers went from 64.6 to 58.3. Average daily solar flux declined from 92.9 to 87.4.

Geomagnetic indicators remained moderate, with last week's average daily planetary A index unchanged at 7, and average daily middle A picture containing red, orange, star, dark

Description automatically generatedlatitude A index changed from 7.7 to 6.9.

Predicted solar flux is much lower than last week's report. Solar flux is predicted at 75 on September 16 - 23; 76 on September 24 - 26; 78, 80, and 82 on September 27 - 29; 86 on September 30 - October 10; 82 on October 11 - 12; 80 on October 13; 78 on October 14 - 17, and 76 on October 18 - 23. Solar flux is expected to rise to 89 by the end of October.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on September 16; 15 on September 17 - 18; 8 on September 19 - 20; 5 and 8 on September 21 - 22; 5 on September 23 - October 3; 8 and 12 on October 4 - 5; 5 on October 6 - 17; 8 on October 18, and 5 on October 19 through the end of the month.

Marty, KB0QZ, in Tulsa called CQ on 28.040 at noon on September 12 on an apparently dead band. LU4HK came back, and they exchanged 599 reports both ways over the 5,094-mile path. He continued to tune the band and call CQ through the afternoon with nothing else heard.

There's a [great solar image](https://bit.ly/3Ch98XD) in this local California newspaper (page down).

Sunspot numbers for September 9 - 15 were 124, 99, 93, 47, 32, 13, and 0, with a mean of 58.3. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 99.7, 96.3, 91.8, 87.7, 83.3, 78.1, and 75.2, with a mean of 87.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 9, 7, 6, 9, 6, and 6, with a mean of 7. Middle latitude A index was 7, 9, 8, 6, 7, 5, and 6, with a mean of 6.9.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere) "What the Numbers Mean...," and [check out](http://k9la.us/) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

A propagation bulletin [archive](http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](https://www.voacap.com/hf/) website.

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***Club Corner***

This is YOUR cornner of the newsletter. Send me what your club is doing and I’ll make sure that it gets in. Got a special event or club project that you want everyone to know about? Send it to me! Need help with a project? Send it to me.

Let me know what you club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary?

Just sent it to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org) Please! Format as below:

******If you want me to publish your club information, or even an article you have written, please send it in WORD format (.docx). Please use Times New Roman font size 12 for the body of the aritcle. Any photos please include as a .jpg or .bmp – the time you save me in doing all the conversions will be greatly appreciated

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**10/02/2021 | World's Largest Horseshoe Crab Roadside Attraction**

**Oct 2, 1400Z-2000Z, K8HO**, Hillsboro, OH. Highland Amateur Radio Association. 7.220 14.220. Certificate. Highland Amateur Radio Association, 21 Highland Drive, Hillsboro, OH 45133. [highlandara@gmail.com](mailto:)

**9-11 special broadcast features amateur radio**

To recognize the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Canton's WHBC 1480 radio broadcast a two- hour collection of remembrances from civil servants and others closely involved in that day's events. The program was broadcast Friday 9/10 on AM radio. Video segments were posted on the station's Facebook pages. The entire program originated from the Stark County EOC.

Stark County ARES Assistant EC David Beltz WD8AYE was a guest on the program and shared what local amateurs did and were prepared to do on that horrible day. You can view a replay of David's interview on Facebook at this address:

<https://www.facebook.com/1480whbc/videos/462741321861891>

Thank you, David for representing amateur radio, ARES and the Canton ARC.





**ARRL Board of Directors honors John Levo**

**National Association for Amateur Radio**  
<http://www.arrl.org/>  
  
The ARRL Board granted several awards at its July 2021 meeting.  
  
John Levo, W8KIW, of Hillsboro, was designated as the recipient of the 2021 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award.  
  
This award honors a public information officer who successfully promotes all aspects of Amateur Radio that enhance the understanding of Amateur Radio’s contributions to education, public safety, and recreation.  
  
The board said Levo’s efforts over time have captured “the many avenues of opportunities of Amateur Radio as a hobby, an education tool, and a service for public safety.”  
  
• The ARRL Doug DeMaw, W1FB Technical Excellence Award went to Steve Franke, K9AN; Bill Somerville, G4WJS, and Joe Taylor, K1JT for their July/August 2020 QEX article, “The FT4 and FT8 Communications Protocols.” The DeMaw award honors the author of an article or article series judged to possess the highest degree of technical merit in ARRL periodicals for the past year.  
  
• The 2021 ARRL Technical Service Award 2021 award recipient is James Baxter, KØUA, of Branson, Missouri. The Board said Baxter “exemplifies the spirit of this award due to his diligent work assisting hundreds of hams get on the air, particularly with FT8, and by spending countless hours on web sessions with them to work out their configuration issues, show them best practices, and to help track down RFI issues.”  
  
• The Board bestowed the 2021 ARRL Technical Innovation Award on Steve Haynal, KF7O; Wojciech Kaczmarski, SP5WWP, and Roger Clark, VK3KYY. Haynal was cited as the instrumental and driving force behind the Hermes Lite 5 W HF SDR transceiver as a fully open-source hardware and software project. Kaczmarski was recognized for developing the open-source digital radio communication protocol M17, leading to the development of DroidStar (an Android application) by Doug McLain, AD8DP. Clark was cited for spearheading a successful effort to augment a low-cost handheld radio for use by visually impaired operators, significantly lowering the cost of entry for such amateurs.  
  
• The 2021 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award went to David Ritter, ND4MR. ARRL sponsors this award in conjunction with the Lake County Indiana Amateur Radio Club in Brier’s memory to recognize superior Amateur Radio instruction and recruitment. An ARRL Member for nearly 40 years, Ritter is an ARRL Registered Instructor and a full-time faculty member at Wilkes Community College in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, where he’s been the lead — and sole — Technician licensing course instructor since 2010.

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Alliance Amateur Radio Club(W8LKY) Activity

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club(W8LKY) will provide Emergency Communications for the Alliance Salvation Army Five(5) K Walk on October 23rd. The 5 K walk will be held in The Carnation City and is part of the National Fund Raising efforts of the Salvation Army in the United States in the fall of 2021.

73

Ron(KE8HCY)

**Cooperative Statewide AR Licensing Classes**

A group of people in a room

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceMany local Amateur Radio clubs often run licensing classes. These are very important to maintaining and increasing the number of licensed hams in the US. They also play an important role in the recruitment of new members into local clubs. Quite often these classes have only a minimum number of attendees in comparison to the amount of work put in by the club members that teach the classes. They have to find (sometimes also pay rent for) a place for the class and handle other aspects of teaching.

COVID has also been a factor complicating in-person classes. Last year our club, Cuyahoga Falls ARC- [www.cfarc.org](http://www.cfarc.org)) decided to take our Tech and General Licensing Classes online. We used Google Meet for online conferencing and Google Classroom to manage the class, distribute materials, provide sample quizzes, share resources, etc. We had a combination of local students, wider-ranging Ohio students and students from three other states. We will be doing this again this year and would like to involve your local club.A picture containing engineering drawing

Description automatically generated

Our plan is to do our usual local recruitment of students for the classes but we would also like to enlist your local club’s help in recruiting candidates from your local area. The big difference is we will refer any students from your area of the state to your local club for membership and most importantly in-person mentoring (Elmering). Even if you do not refer to them, if we have students from your area we would like to know that we can refer them to you for membership and Elmering.

What we would like you to do:

1. Advertise our classes in your newsletter, nets and local media
2. Let us know that you are interested in getting referrals to your club
3. Take an active role in getting these new licensees on the air and acclimated with Amateur Radio operations

What we will do:

1. Provide free online Tech and General Class Licensing instruction
2. Accommodate students from around Ohio and US of all ages
3. Welcome resources, handouts, recordings, guest lecturers, etc. from other clubs
4. Provide a sample news release you can modify for your local media
5. Refer all students completing the classes to radio clubs and VECs in their local area
6. Advertise the class on ARRL website and locally

The Tech License classes will begin Sunday, Oct 10th and run for six weeks. Classes are 1:30 to 4:00 PM and all students must pre-register. The General License classes are not yet scheduled but will run in January/February 2022

Resources/Links

* Class Info- [link](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQU9aeMBjS5jeJn_Zz5bpxiFNKOdGkGePYGbXe_hk96aE2iabOZWtFcn4ONEdqMwsdnR6KTUQ4_jWNK/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000) (https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQU9aeMBjS5jeJn\_Zz5bpxiFNKOdGkGePYGbXe\_hk96aE2iabOZWtFcn4ONEdqMwsdnR6KTUQ4\_jWNK/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000)
* Class Registration- [link](http://tiny.cc/cfarc-tech) (http://tiny.cc/cfarc-tech)
* Sample News Release (a Google Doc that will make a copy and you can edit for your local media)- [link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15Q-vzGvn0HwUdp56gN-c2Hq9JAzOajLB6LdrFN_Oapo/copy)
* Contact Information
  + Anthony Luscre, K8ZT k8zt@arrl.net 330-650-1110
  + Jim Grover, N8PZL n8pzl@arrl.net 330 928-8921

Please contact us if interested in participating k8zt@arrl.net

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VE Sessions

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a VE Session September 25th at the Alliance First Christian Church 1141 West Beech Street in Alliance, 8am Registration, 9am Testing. Contact Karen(N8HUC) for details, her information is listed at [w8lky.org](http://w8lky.org/). She  can be contacted before Noon daily.

Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) If you are interested in testing for a new or upgraded license, please come see us at the DARA Clubhouse. If you have questions about testing, please email [exams.w8bi@gmail.com](mailto:exams.w8bi@gmail.com)

Lake County Amateur Radio Association (LCARA)

Saturday October 2, Saturday December 4

All exams start at noon and are held at the Kirtland Library, 9267 Chillicothe Rd. Kirtland, OH

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

Starting on August 7th, PCARS will resume VE testing at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

Please visit the PCARS web site and check out the information about VE testing in the latest newsletter at [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org) .

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me at KB8UUZ@gmail,com

On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to getting the VE testing going again and look forward to seeing you there – August 7th -10 am – at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

**Your Club news should be listed here!**

I know you’re out there doing things! Send me a write-up (MSWord please) and some photo’s (.jpg please) and we’ll get your club hi-lited here for the other OH Section Clubs to see! Send to [WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG](mailto:WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG)

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A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceDX This Week – K9LA

Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)

CWOPs Member #1567

The Midwest DX Cluster spots included Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Corsica, Costa Rica, England, European Russia, Falkland Islands, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Uruguay, and Western Sahara. This brings the total number of entities spotted in the Midwest in 2021 to 191!

I received a beautiful card from S52OT – Rado in Slovenia and a card from VP8AIB, Janet in the Falkland Islands.

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| A picture containing text, outdoor, bird, black  Description automatically generated | Logo  Description automatically generated |

Dave, K8DV, sent along this great QSL card from Corsica. This confirms a QSO that Dave had in July on 6M FT-8. Well done Dave and thanks for sharing.

A picture containing text, nature, cloud

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DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

We have a problem—Please Help

A group of boxes stacked on top of each other

Description automatically generated with low confidenceMany of the local hams are 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau card sorters. This includes N8DX—Jack, who manages the entire 8th area buro, K8CR—Chuck, the “C” card sorter, AJ8B—Bill, the “N” card sorter, K4ZLE,—Jay the “O” card sorter, K8DV—Dave, the “Q” card sorter, and NR8Z—Tom, the “S” card sorter.   
 As N8DX points out “With the onset of FT8, the growing amount of unclaimed QSLs at the bureau have become overwhelming to say the least.” This is problem for all of the sorters. How can you help? Contact your letter sorter based on their email address at https://arrl-greatlakes.org/8th\_bureau.htm. If you don’t want to receive cards, let the sorter know. If you do, make sure that you have envelopes on file, the address is correct, and the sorter has enough postage. No excuse for a DXer not to be up to date with their card sorter.

N8DX does a terrific job and all of the sorters are dedicated volunteers. Please help them do their job!

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

It is time again for our monthly column from K9LA. Carl had an interesting article on Validating Propagation Predictions. You have to know if you can trust the predictions and to what extent. This article, reprinted with Carl’s permission, discusses that. You can find more excellent articles and other information on Carl’s website; K9LA.us

Validating Propagation Predictions by Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

Since the model of the ionosphere in our propagation prediction programs is a monthly median model, we shouldn’t just listen on one day and use that data to validate a prediction. Even listening over a weekend (for example, during a DX contest) doesn’t really validate a prediction. To do it properly, we need a month’s worth of data. And we need data to validate the MUF prediction and data to validate the signal strength prediction. Let’s walk through a validation process to see what it entails. Let’s assume we want to validate a prediction from K9LA (41N/85W) to 5Z (1S/37.4E) at 1500 UTC on 12m (24.9 MHz) during the month of December at a smoothed sunspot number of 25. Under those conditions, along with assumptions about transmit power and antenna gains, VOACAP gives the following prediction:

Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

The 12m MUFday parameter tells us that VOACAP predicts 12m to be open (enough ionization to get an electromagnetic wave from K9LA to 5Z) on 0.79 days of the month (that’s 24 days when rounded to the nearest whole number). Note that we don’t know which days will be the “good” ones with respect to MUF and which days will be the “bad” ones with respect to MUF.

The predicted signal strength is a median value. That means on half of the days of the month the actual signal strength will be below -95 dBm. On the other half of the days of the month, the signal strength will be above -95 dBm. Again, we don’t know which days will be the “good” ones with respect to signal strength and which days will be the “bad” ones with respect to signal strength.

It should be obvious that we need an entire month’s worth of data to validate these predictions. For this example, the best way to do that would be to monitor the 5Z4B NCDXF/IARU beacon on 24.930 MHz every day in December at 1500 UTC. For details about the NCDXF/IARU beacon system, visit [www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html).

After a month’s worth of listening, you’ll end up with the number of days you heard 5Z4B, and a signal strength measurement on each of those days.

To validate the MUFday prediction, simply divide the number of days you heard 5Z4B by 31 and compare that decimal number to the prediction.

To validate the signal strength prediction, order all your signal strength measurements in ascending order (lowest signal strength first). Then pick out the value that has half the data above it and half the data below it. That’s the actual median signal strength on the path. Compare it to the prediction. It’s essential to know the calibration of your S-meter for signal strength validation, so you need to use a signal generator to do this. Lacking that, you could build (or buy) a test oscillator of known output power and use a step attenuator to calibrate your S-meter.

What does the Median MUF column tell us? Knowing the 12m MUFday parameter and the median MUF allows us to estimate the MUF probability curve since median implies 50% (0.50 in decimal). Thus, we can plot two points: 26.8 MHz is 15.5 days (0.50 times 31) and 24.9 MHz is 24.49 days (0.79 times 31). These are the red data points in the following plot.

Chart, line chart

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Assuming the mode is the same on the higher frequencies (an F2 mode in this case), the plot indicates that 10m should be open on 9 days of the month. It also says 15m (and lower) should be open on all the days. The lower frequencies should have less signal strength, though, due to ionospheric absorption being inversely proportional to the square of the frequency (which would be reflected in the VOACAP prediction).

Although I did this exercise using a VOACAP prediction, I could have done this with a W6ELProp prediction. W6ELProp defines the MUFday parameter as availability, and the availability value is in the Advanced option screen. Signal strength predictions are in terms of dB above 0.5 uv, so you’d have to convert this to dBm to compare to your S- meter calibration chart. The MUF column (to the right of the time column) on the main prediction screen in W6ELProp is the median MUF ñ just like in VOACAP.

Going through this exercise has validated a prediction for one time of day for one month on one band at one smoothed sunspot number. You can understand why it takes a lot of work to validate predictions on several bands throughout the day during all twelve months for all phases of a solar cycle.

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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, the best source for DX information. <http://www.dailydx.com/> . Bernie has this to report:

**Press Release #5 from 3Y0J team   
3Y0J DXpedition to Bouvet Island, November 2022**

We are happy to announce that Northern California DX Foundation has voted to grant $100,000 to the upcoming 3Y0J DXPedition to Bouvet. This is an all-time high donation and matches the previous donation given to Bouvet projects. The 3Y0J team is very grateful and honored in the trust NCDXF has shown by supporting our project.

The DXPedition will be carried out by “Amateur Radio DXpeditions”, a Norwegian non-profit organization created for the purpose of conducting DXpeditions. With an overall budget of $650,000 this will be the most expensive DXPedition ever. With the NCDXF donation we hope to succeed in the fundraising as our first payment milestone for the vessel contract is approaching. By end October we will pay 30% of the vessel contract, and by that time we must have regained confidence that we can succeed financially. We critically need upfront donations to be able to make it. While we have a solid plan, a “young and strong team”, a dedicated crew and vessel Marama – we need your upfront support to go there and make 120,000 QSOs from Cape Fie at Bouvet.

Donations to the 3Y0J project can be done through PayPal on our website or by bank wire transfer.

We wish to recognize and thank the Northern California DX Foundation as the Lead Sponsor for our 3Y0J DXPedition to Bouvet. Without the support of the NCDXF, operations to the world’s rarest entities would be difficult.   
  
You can follow our plans from our website and the 3Y0J Facebook pages:  
[http://www.3y0j.no](http://www.3y0j.no/)   
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3093983840726129>  
   
Thank you,   
  
Ken Opskar LA7GIA, Co-Leader   
Rune Oye LA7THA, Co-Leader   
Erwann Merrien LB1QI, Co-Leader

**XW – Laos -** Yesterday XW0LP (XZ2A, HS0ZIB, G6JFY), Simon Luttrell, had quite the  
scare as local police showed up concerned about "a foreigner living in their town with shortwave radio transmitters and antennas". Twice yesterday they "grilled" him as to what he was up to. They even took his passport and took photos of his wi-fi routers. Thankfully it was all worked out today "with many apologies from the local police, who genuinely thought I was some kind of foreign spy, until the radio licensing department in the capital city called them up and explained everything", said Simon.

**5U – Niger -** F4IHM, Adrien, will be back in Niger between September 11 and October  
22. Listen for him again as 5UAIHM mainly on CW on 40 and 20 meters.

**TL - Central African Republic -** Members of the Italian DX Team have announced their plans for a DXPedition as TL8AA and TL8ZZ during the Spring of 2022. Over the past few years this team operate one call on CW, SSB and RTTY and another on FT8. Details to follow.

**HS & OZ - Thailand and Denmark -** Special event station HS400OZ and OZ400HS will be QRV during September and October in celebration of 400 years of trade between the two  
nations. QSL HS400OZ via E21EIC and LoTW. QSL OZ400HS via OQRS.

**FT - French "subantarctic territories" -** F5UJK, Seb, has led expeditions to some of the French possessions.  His group has an application in for one of these rare ones, a "French Southern Lands National Nature Reserve World Heritage site."  Previous applications were turned down to concerns about the island's conservation status, the project said to be "too risky." [Editor's note: In Seb's tweet he said, "yes the one you are thinking of". The one I am thinking of is FT5W - Crozet Island, which has not been QRV since 2009 and there has never been a full blown DXPedition to this location!]

**C5 - The Gambia -** F5RAV, Luc, reports F5NVF, Gerard, will be active October 24 to November 19, callsign C5C.  He may be able to extend his stay.  He plans to be on 40-10 CW and SSB with 100 watts from an IC-7000.  At some point he will be joined by M0NPT and F5RAV who will be on "all bands" with an IC-705 and Expert 1.3 KFA amp, FT8, SSB and CW and possibly the QO-100 satellite.  Their visit appears to be the October 28 to November 8 portion.

**5H – Tanzania -**  5H3MB is an operation by IK2GZU, Maurizio, starting September 25 and going to November 20.  He has a Yaesu FT-891 and an amplifier to dipoles and a ground plane for 30M.  QSL bureau or direct to IK2GZU or use LoTW, eQSL or Club Log.  He says it is not a DXPedition.  He will be there working on the electrical system of a hospital's neonatology ward and also expanding operating rooms.  He will get on ham radio in his free time, 80-10, "primarily CW, SSB and RTTY."  He may try some FT8.

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Text

Description automatically generatedBelow is a list of upcoming contests in the “Contest Corner”. I think this is important for someone who is trying to move up the DXCC ladder since entities that are on the rarer side and easiest to work in contests. Some of my best “catches” have been on the Sunday afternoon of a contest when the rarer entities are begging for QSOs. Of course, the gamble is that if you wait until Sunday, conditions may change, or they simply won’t be workable. However, it is not a bad gamble. Of course, why not work the contest and have some fun!  
Check out the WA7BNM Contest Calendar page (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>) and CQ Magazine for more contests or more details.

The contests in red are those that I plan to spend some significant participation time on. PLEASE let me know if you are working contests and how you fared.

Thanks!

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Sept. 20 | 144 MHz Fall Sprint | <http://svhfs.org/wp> |
| Sept. 23 | RSGB Autumn Series Data | <https://bit.ly/3p4eShW> |
| **Sept. 24 & 25** | **W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention** | [www.w4dxcc.com](http://www.w4dxcc.com) |
| Sept. 25 | AGCW UHF/VHF Contest | <https://bit.ly/3lw91PK> |
| **Sept. 25-26** | **CQWW RTTY DX Contest** | [www.cqwwrtty.com](http://www.cqwwrtty.com) |
| Sept. 25-26 | Maine QSO Party | [www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html](http://www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html) |
| Sept. 28 | 222MHz Fall Sprint | <http://svhfs.org/wp> |
| Sept. 29 | UKEICC 80m Contests CW | <https://bit.ly/2SDPqQQ> |
| Oct. 2-3 | California QSO Party | [www.cqp.org/Rules.html](http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html) |
| Oct. 2-3 | Oceania Phone DX Contest | [www.oceaniadxcontest.com](http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com) |
| Oct. 2-3 | Russian WW Digital Contest | <http://bit.ly/2MF8xoC> |
| Oct. 2-3 | SKCC QSO Party | <http://bit.ly/2Xl2vyx> |
| Oct. 2-3 | TRC DX Contest | <https://trcdx.org/rules-trc-dx> |
| Oct. 3 | German Telegraphy Contest | <https://bit.ly/3xzuPjw> |
| Oct. 3 | Peanut Power QRP Sprint | [www.nogaqrp.org](http://www.nogaqrp.org) |
| Oct. 3 | RSGB DX Contest | <https://bit.ly/2UAapsc> |
| Oct 3 | UBA ON 80M SSB Contest | <https://bit.ly/3kKYKzj> |
| Oct. 4 | RSGB Autumn Series CW | <https://bit.ly/3p4eShW> |
| Oct. 6 | 432 MHz Fall Sprint | <http://svhfs.org/wp> |
| Oct. 6 | UKEICC 80m Contest SSB | <https://bit.ly/2SDPqQQ> |
| Oct. 6 | VHF-UHF FT8 Activity | [www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en](http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en) |
| Oct. 7 | SARL 80m QSO Party | <http://bit.ly/H0IqQf> |
| Oct. 8-10 | Nevada QSO Party | <http://nvqso.com/contest-rules> |
| Oct. 8-10 | YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest | <https://ylrl.org/wp/dx-na-yl-contest> |
| Oct. 9 | QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party | [www.qrparci.org/contests](http://www.qrparci.org/contests) |
| Oct. 9 | Microwave Fall Sprint | <http://svhfs.org/wp> |
| Oct. 9-10 | Arizona QSO Party | [www.azqsoparty.org](http://www.azqsoparty.org) |
| Oct. 10 | 10-10 Intl. 10-10 Day Sprint | <http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc> |
| Oct 10 | UBA ON 80M CW Contest | <https://bit.ly/3kKYKzj> |
| Oct.9-10 | Cosack’s Honor VHF/UHF Contest | <http://cshonor-vhf.ho.ua/eng1.html> |
| Oct. 9-10 | Makrothen RTTY Contest | <http://bit.ly/2uZd6oF> |
| Oct. 9-10 | Oceania CW DX Contest | [www.oceaniadxcontest.com](http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com) |
| Oct. 9-10 | Pennsylvania QSO Party | <http://paqso.org> |
| Oct. 9-10 | PODSX 070 Club 160M Great Pumpkin Sprint | <http://bit.ly/2RUkcE6> |
| Oct. 9-10 | Scandinavian SSB Activity Contest | [www.sactest.net/blog](http://www.sactest.net/blog) |
| Oct. 9-10 | South Dakota QSO Party | <https://sdqsoparty.com> |
| Oct. 13 | RSGB Autumn Series Data | <https://bit.ly/3p4eShW> |
| Oct. 13 | VHF-UHF FT8 Activity | [www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en](http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en) |
| Oct. 16 | Feld Hell Spooky Sprint | <https://bit.ly/3g8gpxD> |
| Oct. 16-17 | 10-10 Intl. Fall CW Contest | <http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc> |
| Oct. 16-17 | Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest | [www.avhfc.com/rules/en.pdf](http://www.avhfc.com/rules/en.pdf) |
| Oct. 16-17 | New York QSO Party | [www.nyqp.org](http://www.nyqp.org) |
| Oct.16-17 | JARTS WW RTTY Contest | <http://jarts.jp/rules2021.html> |
| Oct. 16-17 | Worked All Germany Contest | <http://bit.ly/2uDQRSV> |
| Oct. 17 | Asia-Pacific CW Sprint | <http://jsfc.org/apsprint> |
| Oct. 17 | RSGB RoLo CW Contest | <https://bit.ly/3xJDZtO> |
| Oct 17 | UBA ON 2M Phone/CW Contest | <https://bit.ly/3kKYKzj> |
| Oct. 17 | Illinois QSO Party | <https://w9awe.org/ilqp> |
| Oct. 18 | RSGB FT4 Contest Series | <http://bit.ly/3mCNXXH> |
| Oct. 18-22 | ARRL School Club Roundup | <http://bit.ly/MaLmBs> |
| Oct. 20 | AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening | <http://bit.ly/2WB74qy> |
| Oct. 23-24 | ARRL EME Contest | [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest) |
| Oct. 23-24 | North American SSB Sprint Contest | <https://ssbsprint.com/rules> |
| **Oct. 23-24** | **Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge** | [www.kkn.net/stew/stew\_rules.html](http://www.kkn.net/stew/stew_rules.html) |
| Oct. 23-24 | UK/EI DX Contest | [www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php](http://www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php) |
| Oct. 24-25 | Telephone Pioneers QSO Party | <http://tpqso.tparca.org> |
| Oct.24-25 | Fall Classic Exchange CW | [www.classicexchange.org](http://www.classicexchange.org) |
| Oct. 26-27 | Fall Classic Exchange CW | [www.classicexchange.org](http://www.classicexchange.org) |
| Oct. 27 | UKEICC 80m CW | <https://bit.ly/2SDPqQQ> |
| Oct. 28 | RSGB Autumn Series SSB | <https://bit.ly/3p4eShW> |
| **Oct. 30-31** | **CQWW DX SSB Contest** | [www.cqww.com/index.htm](http://www.cqww.com/index.htm) |
| **Nov. 27-28** | **CQWW DX CW Contest** | [www.cqww.com/index.htm](http://www.cqww.com/index.htm) |
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DX This Week – CQWW RTTY

A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceBill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)

CWOPs Member #1567

The Midwest DX Cluster spots included Asiatic Russia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Balearic Islands, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Canary Islands, China, Dominican Republic, European Russia, Fed. Rep. of Germany, Fiji, France, Ghana, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Reunion Island, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vietnam, Western Sahara.

This brings the total number of entities spotted in the Midwest in 2021 to 193!

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This month marks the start of contest season. The kickoff is the CQWW RTTY contest. It is not like the “old days” with ink, paper dust, bits of paper flying around, paper tapes, the smell of oil, and the noise. Boy do I miss the noise!

In 2020, there were 3,655 logs submitted which was approximately 550 more than in 2019. A huge increase likely caused by the pandemic.

Whether you are a serious contester or just like to get on the air, this is a good contest to do that. I thought I would share a bit of info for your edification. (From [www.cqwwrtty.com/rules.htm](http://www.cqwwrtty.com/rules.htm) )

The contest is held September 25th and 26th, 0000Z Saturday (Friday night) through 2400Z on Sunday. (7:59 PM EST)

Only 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters are eligible bands.

The contest exchange is RST plus CQ Zone. Stations in the US and Canada also send QTH as State. For me it will be 599 04 OH.

Hope to see you in the mix!

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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, the best source for DX information. <http://www.dailydx.com/> . Bernie has this to report:

**T6 – Afghanistan -** S53R, Robert, operator at T6AA and T6A is safely back home in Slovenia and is expecting to QSY to his next work assignment in 9N - Nepal late next month.

**HR – Honduras -** F2JD, Gerard, plans to be back in Copan Ruinas from December 8 to April 5. Listen for him as HR5/F2JD on CW, SSB and digital modes on all bands. QSL direct or via the bureau to F6AJA. Logs will be posted to [http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php](http://lesnouvellesdx.fr/voirlogs.php)  
  
**VP8 - Falkland Islands -** Husband and wife operators VP8NX, David, and VP8VK, Suzan, are once again back on the air. The Pole-Evans are now QRV on the FT8 frequencies on 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters using a fan dipole with 20 watts.

**3D2/C - Conway Reef**- The Rebel DX Group reported the following on Facebook. "Finally, after months of negotiations we are finally received Navy permission to leave main island Viti Levu by one of our yacht here during the COVID restrictions. Situation in Fiji is not easy, but we are going forward with the projects.

During the next 2 weeks we will set a sail to Conway Reef. This time will be one-man expedition and hard test before our plans for Bouvet 3Y0I in December 2021.

Just to remind you in 2019 our 2 man's team did over 33.000+ QSO’s in 8 days and made new world best score QSO/day/operator."

**3Y - Bouvet Island -** The November 2022 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXPedition team announced yesterday "INDEXA has voted to grant $15,000 to our Bouvet DXPedition! This is the largest donation ever. Thank you! It is donations like this that enable teams to activate the rarest entities. 73, 3Y0J team"

**3DA – Eswatini -** 3DA0RU, coming up in late October, is seeking financial support.  The ops planning two weeks of operating.  <https://dxpedition.wixsite.com/3da0ru>  R7AL and the group note they've recently done 7Q7RU, A25RU and C92RU despite the global pandemic and travel restrictions.  This time they are taking along a 26-meter pole and a 22 meter pole to hold 160 and 80 meter antennas and will make a point of working North America and the Far East.

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***DX NEWS***

SB DX ARL ARLD037  
ARLD037 DX news  
  
This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by IK2DUW, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.  
Thanks to all.  
  
CONWAY REEF, 3D2.  Dom, 3D2USU is QRV as 3D2CR and active until the end of September.  Look for activity on 160 to 6 meters using FT8. QSL via operator's instructions.  
  
TANZANIA, 5H.  Gab, HA3JB is QRV as 5H1IP from Zanzibar Island, IOTA AF-032, until September 29.  Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.  This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.  QSL direct to home call.  
  
TONGA, A3.  Masa, JA0RQV is QRV as A35JP from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, until October 31.  Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8.  QSL to home call.  
  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.  Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society are QRV with special callsign A60EXPO until October 1 during the Special Event Expo 2020 being held in Dubai.  QSL via EA7FTR.  
  
BAHRAIN, A9.  Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society are QRV as A91ARS until September 23 to celebrate the Saudi National Day. QSL via EC6DX.  
  
COMOROS, D6.  Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK will be QRV as D60AC and D60AD, respectively, from September 18 to October 2.  Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.  QSL to home calls.  
  
SPAIN, EA.  Special event station AM500EMV will be QRV from September 18 to 25 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first circumnavigation of the Earth and memorialize Juan Sebastian Elcano's taking on the command of the carrack Victoria.  QSL via EA7URF.  
  
JAN MAYEN, JX.  Operators LA7GIA, RA9USU, DL5EBE, LB1QI and EA3HSO are QRV as JX0X from Kvalrossbukta, IOTA EU-022, until October 5. Activity is on the HF bands using all bands and modes and with four stations active.  QSL direct to UA3DX.  
  
LITHUANIA, LY.  Special event calls LY785A, LY785QT and LY785SUN are QRV until September 30 to celebrate the founding 785 years ago of the town of Siauliai.  QSL LY785SUN via LoTW, LY785QT via LY2QT, and LY785A via LY5A.  
  
SEYCHELLES, S7.  Fred, DH5FS is QRV as S79/DH5FS from La Digue and Praslin Islands, IOTA AF-024.  Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and FT8.  QSL to home call.  
  
POLAND, SP.  Special event station 3Z20UR is QRV until October 15 to celebrate 20 years of the University of Rzeszow.  QSL via SP8POP.  
  
CRETE, SV9.  Flavio, IW2NEF will be QRV as SV9/IW2NEF from September 19 to 24.  Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via IK2DUW.  
  
UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4.  Garry, 2M1DHG is QRV as ZC4GR until December 31.  Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.  QSL via EB7DX.  
  
The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for September 21.  
  
The SKCC CW Sprint, Phone Fray, and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for September 22.  
  
Please see September QST, page 94, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

[**Upcoming *Hamfests***](http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html)

We **DO** have some hamfests scheduled for 2021!! Yes, take a good look at the list, it’s growing every day!

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | ***2021*** | | | **09/26/2021 -**[**Cleveland Hamfest**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/cleveland-hamfest-1)  **Location:**Berea, OH **Sponsor:** Hamfest Association of Cleveland **Website:** [http://www.hac.org](http://www.hac.org/)  [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/cleveland-hamfest-1) | | | **10/02/2021 -**[**10th Annual Vette City Hamfest,**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/10th-annual-vette-city-hamfest-arrl-great-lakes-division-convention)  [**ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/10th-annual-vette-city-hamfest-arrl-great-lakes-division-convention)    ***Canceled*** | | | **10/09/2021 -**[**Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club (NWOARC) hamfest**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/northwest-ohio-amateur-radio-club-nwoarc-hamfest)  **Location:**Westminster, OH **Sponsor:** NWOARC, Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club **Website:** [http://www.nwoarc.com](http://www.nwoarc.com/)  [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/northwest-ohio-amateur-radio-club-nwoarc-hamfest) | **10/31/2021 -**[**Massillon (Ohio) Hamfest**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/massillon-ohio-hamfest)  **Location:**Green, OH **Sponsor:** Massillon Amateur Radio Club **Website:** [http://w8np.org](http://w8np.org/)  [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/massillon-ohio-hamfest) | | **11/06/2021 -**[**GARC Hamfest**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/garc-hamfest-4) **Location:**Georgetown, OH **Sponsor:**Grant Amateur Radio Club  [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/garc-hamfest-4) | **12/04/2021 -**[**FCARC WinterFest**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/fcarc-winterfest-2)  **Location:**Delta, OH  **Sponsor:** Fulton County Amateur Radio Club  **Website:**<http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>  [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/fcarc-winterfest-2) | |

This section is to report OH Section Hamfests, Division and National Events. I do want to put a plug in for a new Fest, just over the border in Kentucky. The Paintsville, KY Hamfest will be held on 9/25 from 8:00am until 2:00pm. You an get complete information at <http://www.ky4arc.com> .

Be sure to keep your eyes on this schedule as that when things start getting better and the vaccine rolls out to more and more, hamfests will surely get back to their normal schedule. Don’t see your hamfest listed?? Did anyone register it with ARRL? It’s really easy to do and you get a lot of FREE publicity if you do.

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**OHIO’S A picture containing text, clipart

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As mentioned last time, a look at the calendar shows us Labor Day and the final unofficial day of summer is behind us. Halloween things are appearing on stores shelves, football is in the air, some form of school is upon us and our farmers are now getting their combines and other equipment ready for the fall harvest. As suggested last time, now is the best time to work on your antenna system to make it ready for the upcoming winter weather. The Old Farmer’s Almanac says it is to be a snowy winter with temperatures below normal. That forecast does not appeal to many hams to be the best time to be outside fixing an antenna.

A sign on the side of a road

Description automatically generated with low confidenceSaturday was the 14th Annual Ohio State Parks on the Air Contest sponsored by the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)**. It was a great time to be outside in one of Ohio’s State Parks and many hams from Southern Ohio joined with others from throughout Ohio to activate a park. Personally I anticipated activation of six parks as a rover. However, Murphy had other ideas and my rig failed upon arrival at my second park of the day following a successful run at Pike Lake. It was observed a lot of stations were on as were a good number of parks. Southern Ohio was well represented by each. Thanks to all who participated. Now to just sit back and wait for the results and statistics. Thanks to PCARS for sponsoring this annual event.

Labor Day caused the **Portsmouth RC** to change their normal meeting date. They met Monday evening at the American Legion Post in Portsmouth preceded by the monthly VE session and a delegation of **Highland ARA** members in attendance. The Portsmouth club is always an enjoyable group to visit.

Mike Boyle, WF8B, lets us know the **Clinton County ARA** will hold a VE test session on Sunday, September 26 at the Boyd Cancer Center in Wilmington. Things get underway at 2 PM.

In preparation for the upcoming October 9 Highland ARA Fox Hunt, Richie Hagen, N8CUB, held a discussion about Fox Hunting on September 18 at the Harmony Lake shelter house at Hillsboro’s Liberty Park. This was an opportunity for those new to this type activity to learn more about how to participate.

A picture containing text, sign, outdoor, highway

Description automatically generatedThe **West Chester ARA** will observe the 77th Anniversary of the Voice of America’s Bethany Relay Station with the operation of WC8VOA on September 25 and 26. Their proposed operation will be on 7.268 and 14.268. It would also be a great time to make a visit to the site and visit the two museums at the old VOA facility. Find more information at [www.wc8voa.org](http://www.wc8voa.org).

October 2 will be a busy one for the **Athens County ARA** with two public service events happening. First they will provide radio communications and act as check points for the annual Buckeye Trail Blue Blaze Festival Half Marathon starts at 9 am and the Bailey’s Gravel Challenge starts at noon. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is still in need of some more operators to assist in one or each event. If you can give some time, let him know at 740-592-6124 or 740-541-0972.

Also happening on October 2 the **Highland ARA** will operate K8HO from the “World’s Largest Horseshoe Crab” which is located at the eastern edge of Hillsboro. The special event station will operate from 10 AM until 4 PM on 7.220 and 14.220. A certificate confirming contact will be available to those who successfully complete a contact with the station.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generatedIt was a Father and Son act at the recent **Athens County ARA**’s Fox Hunt. During the Club’s September event Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, was able to track down his son Miles, KD8KNC, in a bit over an hour. Kurt Groeneveld, KC8JRV, came in second place finding Miles in about 90 minutes. Miles had selected a challenging hiding place well outside of Athens. According to Groeneveld the next ACARA Fox Hunt is tentatively set for October 9 with WD8RIF as the Fox.

According to Brent Wells, N4BDW, about eight members of the **Greater Mason County ARA** assisted the recent Maysville, KY Two Bridge Run and the Limestone Cycle Tour. Exceptional weather greeted participants and hams on each day. As a hillside is between one of the bridges, public service radio communications is difficult into downtown Maysville. A member parked his truck on the Ohio side of the river and used his cross band radio as a repeater to relay information into the downtown event control point. Although the number of Two Bridge participates has not been released, approximately 675 riders took part in the cycling event.

Bud Cyr, KB8KMH, informs us the next meeting of the **Tri-State ARA** will be on September 21 at the West Virginia Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, WV. It starts at 7 PM. Those attending are asked to comply with COVID safeguards.

The **Cambridge ARA** will hold its next monthly meeting on September 25 at 10 AM in the Guernsey County Administration Building in Cambridge. The Club is preparing to observe its 108th anniversary in December. It is one of the 20th oldest amateur radio clubs in the nation.

Diagram

Description automatically generatedThe parking lot of the C & O train depot in Catlettsburg, KY will be the site for the annual **River Cities ARA** Fall Tailgate Hamfest on Saturday, October 9 from 10 until 4. There is no admission or set-up charge, but donations would be appreciated. A free Laurel VE test session will be held at 11 AM. A dual band radio will be awarded as the grand prize. There will also be a 50/50 drawing. Tickets for each will be available for purchase. Information about the event can be obtained by contacting Mike Sullivan at [kn4imu@gmail.com](mailto:kn4imu@gmail.com).

Another hamfest-the Parkersburg Area Hamfest- will take place on October 9 up river in Mineral Wells, WV and is sponsored by the **Wood County Emergency Communications** group. It is to be held at the Wood County, WV 4-H Fairgrounds beginning at 8 AM with a $5 admission charge. There will be a W5YI VE session with registration beginning at 8. Contact Ken Harris, WA8LLM, at 304-481-3840 for additional updated information.

Diagram

Description automatically generatedThanks to Ted Jacobson,W8KVK, we learn that Pickaway County has a new ham. Let us welcome David England of Circleville to our ranks. David now sports KE8SWV. WELCOME.

As this column is prepared the outside temperature is hot, dry and sticky with a heat index reading above 90°. So it is hard to believe the holiday season is not that far away. But several Southern Ohio clubs are already preparing just for that time of the year with activities and celebration plans well underway. This year the **Southern Ohio ARA** will observe the holiday with a “Christmas in November” on November 15 at the Ironton Frisch’s.

On December 4 the **Cambridge ARA** will combine the Club’s 108th Anniversary Celebration with their annual awards banquet. It will be at Theo’s Restaurant in Cambridge. Also on December 4 the **Portsmouth ARA** will have its annual Christmas Dinner at the Gathering Place in Wheelersburg. A fun filled fund raising auction is always a part of the evening’s activities. On December 11 the **Highland ARA** will assist the Hillsboro Downtown Business Association with organizing the annual Christmas Holiday Parade winding through the streets of downtown Hillsboro. Then on Tuesday evening December 14, the club’s annual dinner party meeting will happen featuring a yummy catered meal at the Hillsboro Methodist Church.

A picture containing text, clipart, businesscard, picture frame

Description automatically generatedOctober 16 will be the next **Hocking Valley ARA** Fox Hunt. It begins with participants checking in on the 147.345 repeater between 9:45 and 10. The actual hunt starts at 10 AM on 147.495 simplex with the ‘Fox’ located somewhere in Hocking County.

A picture containing tree, outdoor, person

Description automatically generatedA picture containing grass, tree, outdoor, building

Description automatically generatedThe “Iron Furnace on the Air” special event station conducted by the **Southern Ohio ARA** from the Vesuvius Furnace Recreational Area near Ironton on Saturday was an outstanding success according to club PIO Mike Love, WB8YKS. A hidden transmitter hunt was also held introducing members to the art of Fox Hunting.

Ham radio event wise it appears the remainder of September is rather non-eventful. Although the cancellation of the Great Lakes ARRL is a bummer, things are looking promising for October with club meetings, events and other activities on the agenda. If your club has something they would like to promote or brag about please let me know at [highlandara@gmail.com](mailto:highlandara@gmail.com) or [jlevo@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jlevo@cinci.rr.com). In the meantime and until next time, stay safe, healthy and ham radio active.

73, John Levo, W8KIW

**Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License**

*(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)*

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I’ve created a set of instructions on how you can request an **“official” printed copy of your license\***

[**Click here to download the instructions**](http://arrl-ohio.org/news/2020/print_your_license.pdf)

***One Question Questionnaire***

I consider this one of the most important questions I’ve put up here, so how about going to www.ARRL-OHIO.org and giving me a click? (It’s in the bottom left corner of the page) I’ll have more to say about this in the next OH Section Journal!

***“Have you ever built a working Amateur Radio Transceiver?”***

From the last Poll: ***“Have you ever climbed a tower to work on antennas?”***

Out of 82 responses: 67% YES 33% NO. PLEASE! Be careful on towers.

Ohio Section Cabinet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD | Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN |
| Section Emergency Coordinator – Stan Broadway, N8BHL | Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT |
| Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK | Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Tom Sly, WB8LCD |
| State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU | Public Information Coordinator – John Ross, KD8IDJ |



Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here’s a link that will take you there… <http://arrl-ohio.org/sm/s-s.html>

Do you have equipment that you just don’t need or want anymore? Here’s a great venue to advertise it, and it’s FREE!! Is your club doing a fund raiser to help raise money? After a lot of thought, it was decided that the Swap & Shop webpage could also contain these types of items as well. The same rules will apply as do for the For Sales and Give-A-Ways and will only be posted for a month at a time. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the webpage.

If your club is doing a fund raiser and wants more exposure, please forward the information to me and I’ll advertise it on the Swap & Shop webpage for you.

Now, I still want to remind you that it won’t be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted. Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact phone number or email within the posting. Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to:  [swap@arrlohio.org](mailto:swap@arrlohio.org)

***Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal***

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking:

<http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html>

***Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?***

We have a webpage where you can download and read all of the newsletters that I get from around the state and even other sections!

Here’s the link to the page…. <http://arrl-ohio.org/club_news/index.html>

Please, if you don’t see your club newsletter posted, it’s because I’m not receiving it. Just have your newsletter editor contact me and I’ll get your club’s newsletter listed on the site!!

We all learn and steal (I mean, share) from each other’s work. So, get me your newsletter!!! Send it to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org)

***Chit – Chat, and All That!***

Do you know someone that’s not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them “[Opt-In](mailto:Opt-In)” to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send an email to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org) and we’ll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.

We now have many thousands of readers receiving these newsletters weekly. Quite impressive, I’d say! I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up to receive these weekly Newsletters.

You can always “Opt-Out” at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It’s fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived too.

You can go back at any time and read them.

Just go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/news/>

The pictures on the front page and throughout this newsletter are from various newsletters, Facebook posts and/or were sent directly to me in recent weeks. Take a good look at them, you just might be in one of the pictures! “SMILE… you’re in the Ohio Section News!!”

*PostScript is produced as a weekly newsletter. I want to thank everyone that has contributed articles and ideas to make this an even better news source. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and news and events happening around the world!*